IN THE CLAIMS

1-14 (canceled).

15. (currently amended) A method of making a porous polymeric article whose surface has grafted to it chains of ~~polymerised~~ polymerized vinyl monomer groups, which comprises:

a. impregnating a porous polymeric article with a solution of a first vinyl monomer and a second vinyl monomer,

b. exposing the impregnated article to ultraviolet radiation while exposure of the article to oxygen is restricted, to cause (i) the first vinyl monomer to form ~~polymerised~~ polymerized chains which are grafted to the surface of the polymeric article, and (ii) the second vinyl monomer to react with the ~~polymerised~~ polymerized chains of the first vinyl monomer,

wherein the ratio of the molar concentration of said first vinyl monomer in the solution to that of said second vinyl monomer is at least about 1.5.

16. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 15, ~~in which the~~ wherein said porous polymeric article comprises a non-woven fabric formed from ~~fibres~~ fibers whose surface is provided by a polymeric material.

17. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 15, ~~in which the~~ wherein said polymeric article comprises a microporous sheet.

18. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 15, ~~in which the~~ wherein said first vinyl monomer comprises an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or an ester thereof.

19. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 18, ~~in which the~~ wherein said first vinyl monomer comprises acrylic acid or an ester thereof.

20. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 15, ~~in which the~~ wherein said second vinyl monomer ~~comprises~~ is selected from the group consisting of vinyl acetic acid, vinyl sulphonic acid, ~~or~~ vinyl phosphonic acid, ~~or their~~ and the salts ~~or~~ and esters thereof.

21. (canceled).

22. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 15, ~~in which the~~ wherein said polymer ~~of the article~~ comprises polypropylene.

23. (new) A method of making a porous polymeric article whose surface has polymerized vinyl monomer groups grafted thereto, which comprises:

a. impregnating a porous polymeric article with a solution of a first vinyl monomer, a second vinyl monomer and an initiator,

b. exposing the impregnated article to ultraviolet radiation with exposure of the article to oxygen is restricted,

wherein said first vinyl monomer, said second vinyl monomer, and said initiator are selected so that said first vinyl monomer will form grafted chains and said second vinyl monomer will not form grafted chains in said step of exposing said impregnated article to ultraviolet radiation, whereby said exposing step causes (i) said first vinyl monomer to form polymerized chains

which are grafted to said surface of said polymeric articles, and (ii) said second vinyl monomer to react with said polymerized chains of said first vinyl monomer.

24. (new) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said porous polymeric article comprises a non-woven fabric formed from fibers whose surface is provided by a polymeric material.

25. (new) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said polymeric article comprises a microporous sheet.

26. (new) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said first vinyl monomer comprises an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or an ester thereof.

27. (new) A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein said first vinyl monomer comprises acrylic acid or an ester thereof.

28. (new) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said second vinyl monomer is selected from the group consisting of vinyl acetic acid, vinyl sulphonic acid, vinyl phosphonic acid, and the salts and esters thereof.

29. (new) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the ratio of the molar concentration of said first vinyl monomer in the solution to that of said second vinyl monomer is at least about 1.5.

30. (new) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said polymer comprises polypropylene.

31. (new) A method of making a porous polymeric article whose surface has polymerized vinyl monomer groups grafted thereto, which comprises:

a. impregnating a porous polymeric article with a solution of a first vinyl monomer and a second vinyl monomer,

b. exposing said impregnated article to ultraviolet radiation while exposure of the article to oxygen is restricted, to cause (i) said first vinyl monomer to form polymerized chains which are grafted to the surface of said polymeric article, and (ii) said second vinyl monomer to react with the polymerized chains of said first vinyl monomer

wherein said second vinyl monomer is selected from the group consisting of vinyl sulphonic acid, vinyl phosphonic acid, and the salts and esters thereof.

32. (new) A method as claimed in claim 31, wherein said porous polymeric article comprises a non-woven fabric formed from fibers whose surface is provided by a polymeric matri8al.

33. (new) A method as claimed in claim 31, wherein said polymeric article comprises a microporous sheet.

34. (new) A method as claimed in claim 31, wherein said first vinyl monomer comprises an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or an ester thereof.

35. (new) A method as claimed in claim 34, wherein said first vinyl monomer comprises acrylic acid or an ester thereof.

36. (new) A method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the ratio of the molar concentration of said first vinyl monomer in the

solution to that of said second vinyl monomer is at least about 1.5.

37. (new) A method as claimed in claim 31, wherein said polymer comprises polyethylene.